

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 AID-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 120933Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5224

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5303

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA & MADRAS FROM
BOMBAY APRIL 8, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0905

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJ: MISA ARRESTS IN GUJARAT

REF: BOMBAY 750

1. OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT TO DATE NO FORMER JANATA FRONT
MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN GUJARAT. WE BELIEVE THAT IF ANY
HAD BEEN, WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT. WE HAVE HEARD
CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT NUMBERS AND POLITICAL RANK OF ARRESTEES.
ONE CONGRESS(R) MP, ARVIND PATEL, TOLD OUR SENIOR LOCAL POLITICAL
ANALYST THAT NO STATE LEGISLATORS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT HIS
DENIAL IS CONTRADICTED BY THE CLAIM OF GUJARAT JANA SANGH SOURCES
WHO SAY THAT SIX JANA SANGH MLAS HAVE BEEN DETAINED.

2. GUJARAT JANA SANGH PRESIDENT KESHUBHAI PATEL RECENTLY
COMPLAINED TO THE STATE GOVERNOR ABOUT MISUSE OF MISA, WHICH HE
ALLEGES IS FORCING, BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF ARREST, OPPOSITION
WORKERS TO DEFECT TO CONGRESS(R). PATEL CITED THE ARREST OF SIX
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JANA SANGH MEMBERS OF THE RAJKOT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AS AN

EXAMPLE OF THIS TACTIC. OTHER OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED INCLUDE THE DEPUTY MAYORS OF SURAT AND BARODA, CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SURENDRANAGAR MUNICIPALITY LEGAL COMMITTEE, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJKOT CITY COOPERATIVE BANK.

3. WHILE A TOTAL ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS IN GUJARAT IS DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT, ARVIND PATEL SAID THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER INPOSITION OF PRESIDENTIAL RULE, ABOUT 1,500 JANA SANGH MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED IN GUJARAT, MOST OF WHOM WERE YOUTH WORKERS. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED (IN REFTEL) REPORTS OF THE ARREST OF ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS IN GUJARAT. SIGNED COURTNEY
UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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